

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 2 - Number 11

AUGUST, 1954



WORSHIP CENTER AT GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Impressions of General Council

The New Haven General Council Meeting held on the beautiful campus of Yale University and the 9th National Council of Pilgrim Fellowship held in the impressive halls of the Yale Divinity School are now history. The cover picture reveals the dignity and beauty surrounding the sessions in huge Woolsey Hall.

Three thousand delegates from all over the nation joined together in reviewing the inspiring accomplishments of the Board of Home Missions, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Council for Social Action, the Service Committee, and the departments of our General Council. Together, and in a true spirit of Christian grace, they developed plans for the next biennium, worked at the problems and discussed the important issues facing our denomination.

You will be hearing much in the days ahead about the Council Meetings, and your association or conference delegate will be making a report in the fall meetings, but here are some impressions, as written by a few of our 23 delegates and alternates who attended the 1954 sessions. . . .

Pre-Council Mission

The recent practice of having a series of meetings dealing with our spiritual needs and mission prior to the General Council has been found most helpful. Sponsored by the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life, in the expectation that a spiritual mood would be created for the delegates, these meetings provide the right atmosphere for the sessions of the General Council.

The guest speaker this year was Dr. Daniel Thambrajeh Niles, a theologian from India, whose recent books have been widely read. Dr. Niles is a Methodist, but his spiritual insight and devotion knows no denominational boundaries. The spirit of Dr. Niles was seen not only in his messages but in the periods following when the great themes were discussed and questions answered. His keen mind and humble spirit made a vivid impression on those present.

Dr. Niles spoke three times. His first address was "Living with the Bible," and the essence of this message was "the Bible must be regarded as a conversation between God and man." We should know this book--know it and love it--and let its words live in and through us. The second address was "Theology and Religion," or man's attempt to explain his faith. He added this word of caution, "There must always be a question mark about our faith." We do not know all the answers--there is still yet more truth for us to discover. The closing message was "The Prayer of the Intercessor," using as his theme John 17:20, "Neither pray I for these alone." Dr. Niles' Christ is ever present, not to be seen with human eyes but in the ascendant never the less, and he wants us and needs us to be his witnesses. "Like our Lord, our prayers and life should be for others," Dr. Niles said, "But before praying for others, let us

in humility pray for ourselves that we may prove worthy instruments and thus permit the spirit of God to work through us."

—Pauline and Arnold Slater

* * *

CHURCH BUILDING LOAN FUND

The Church Building Loan Fund campaign in which our churches have been engaged this past two years was a thrilling success. A fund of almost five million dollars was announced by Dr. Albert D. Stauffacher, national director of the fund campaign, in speaking to the delegates to the General Council held in New Haven, Conn., the last of June.

The figure that was announced June 27, stood at \$4,825,807, with a goal of \$4,500,000. And it was the belief of Dr. Stauffacher that when the last check is in we will have gone beyond the five million. It was a thrilling thing for your Chairman to march in the processional by the side of Supt. Butterfield when the special victory program was conducted at the General Council meeting. During the entire program my mind kept easing back in thought to the Churches of the the Southeast Convention because I knew the local people in the churches had made this possible.

I would like to tell you that of all the Conferences and Conventions, the Southeast Convention was among the ten to raise its suggested goal by the time the General Council met in New Haven. Of course there were twelve other Conferences that were listed as raising their goal, but the amount had been underwritten by the Conference, itself.

I say "THANK YOU" to every one of you for making it possible for all the delegates from the Southeast Convention to hold their heads high in New Haven. It was a job that was done only by cooperation and a love for the Kingdom of God.

—Lowell A. Smoat

The phases of General Council that impressed me would be too numerous to mention. The worship services conducted by the Chaplain were always worth hearing, and also the choirs with their beautiful messages of song. The night sessions I never wanted to miss because of the good speakers. When Mrs. Rosa Welch Page led the more than 3,000 people in singing spirituals, it was wonderful to hear all the voices blended together. It was fun to browse through the display room where all the materials were--it was here you could also meet old and new friends and have a few minutes to chat with them. The business sessions were interesting and informative. Dr. Arthur Gray, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and the Moderator, Dr. Cashman, should be commended for doing splendid jobs.

The Christian Education Sessions were the most interesting to me. Suggestions given were



DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO GENERAL COUNCIL

Left to right, standing: Rev. Clyde Flannery, Odel Yancey, Mrs. Yancey, Rev. Lowell Smoot, Mrs. Smoot, Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Rev. Arnold Slater, Walter Wood, Rev. Peter Doherty, Superintendent Butterfield. Left to right, seated: Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. Flannery, Mrs. Butterfield and Mrs. Logan. Missing from the group picture: Dr. Thos. Anderson, Rev. Goff Bedford, Rev. Archie Bedford, Pressley Ingram, Rev. Carl Dollar and Mrs. Slater.

very helpful and I hope to pass them along to others. I was glad that I had a small share in it.

—Jettie Logan

Picture in your mind a beautiful mahogany colored cross, high above and against a blue background, in front of which is a simple wooden communion table on which slender burning tapers and flowers are displayed. Listen quietly as the New Haven Chorale sings "O Magnify the Lord With Me"—thus the setting is staged for another meaningful dedication of the **Woman's Gift**.

Our hearts thrilled with humility and joy as our national president, Grace Buckham, announced that the Woman's Gift exceeded \$282,500 for 1952-54, an increase of approximately 20 per cent over the preceding biennium. The first Woman's Gift was dedicated in 1942 and since that time the overall total is in excess of \$1,600,000. This speaks well of the women as they continue to manifest Christian concern through their sacrificial giving.

The Southeast Convention was well represented in the Presidents' procession by Mrs. Arnold Slater, President of Kentucky-Tennessee; Mrs. P. Doherty, past President of Georgia; Mrs. Jettie Logan, Past President of Alabama; and me, President of Alabama-Northwest Florida. As the gifts were placed on the altar we were proud of our accomplishments. However, as we think seriously

of the total work, we know that victory will come only when we have **every** church and **every** churchwoman participating in this greatest of all Christian adventure—"giving the second mite."

—Mary Margaret Smoot

To a layman who has been busy with the struggles of his own church for existence while working with leaders of the other twelve churches in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference (most of whom have similar problems and heartaches) it was most revealing to meet with the national leaders of our great denomination and see the work from a national and a world view-point.

To meet with men from large churches in the East, Middle West and Far West--churches have problems so different from ours and even some who seem to have no problems at all--is certainly an eye-opener as to the possibilities we have here in our Southeast Convention. Not that I wasn't proud of the record of the past year of our convention--we SE delegates stuck out our chests quite a bit at the many compliments passed our way on our progress since the coming of our present superintendent, Erston Butterfield. We learned that he is the youngest superintendent, although considered close to the top of the list in ability.

Most of all, I was impressed by how nearly
(Please turn to page 6)

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ALA.-NWFLA. WOMEN WIN AGAIN

The women of Alabama-Northwest Florida "chalked up" another victory as they closed out their double-header Retreat at Wadley, Ala., July 13-14. A crowd of 53, representing 17 churches, was on hand for the opening play by the Andalusia women.

The innings ran swiftly as the team presented program ideas, the working materials and mission books for 1955.

Welch hit a double when she recommended that Alabama's share of the Woman's Gift might be used for a travel fund for the state president or to purchase a slide projector for the Southeast Convention. Logan slugged away, however, with the idea that the money should be used to help establish a Southeast Convention campsite. After many comments from the sidelines, Coach Smoot called for a motion which resulted in a victory for the slide projector. The spectators all agreed that much good would come to the Southeast Convention campsite. After many comments from the sidelines, Coach Smoot called for a motion which resulted in a victory for the slide projector. The spectators all agreed that much good would come to the Southeast Convention through this decision.

At the end of the seventh inning, amid a colorful setting of India, a delicious banquet was served under the supervision of Assistant Coach Dollar.

When play resumed the bases were quickly loaded: On first, our special guest, Miss Agnes Wood, shared her experiences as a home economics teacher of Zulu girls in South Africa. She also gave much background and general information on OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION. On second base was Mrs. Ed Riggs, Missionary to India, who gave an inspiring account of the work she and Dr. Riggs have done, especially among the lepers of that country. Sheigmi Morita slid into third base all the way from Kyoto, Japan, to Southern Union where he will enter as a student this fall. Excitement mounted as runs

came in--the beautiful colored slides which depicted so vividly the work being done by and for the people in Africa, India and Japan.

In the closing minutes of play, the teams went into action and hit these "homers": 1) a vote to give \$50 to the Southeast Convention for the Southeast Women's Fellowship work; 2) a decision to raise state expense dues for 1955 to .75 per member, .25 of this amount to be used for the Southeast Women's Fellowship, the money to be collected at the spring rallies.

When asked about the game, Coach Smoot said: "I had a few anxious moments, but why should I? When all the players came through hitting 500!"

—Mary Margaret Smoot

* * *

NOTICE TO ALA.-NWFLA. WOMEN

If your Women's Fellowship was not represented at the Retreat, please order your program packet (\$1.25 plus .20 postage) and yearbooks (.10 each plus postage) from Mrs. L. A. Smoot, 1518 Edmunds Ave., Phenix City, Ala., immediately.

The following mission books will be available for about one month from President Clyde Flannery, Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.: **Home Mission** - MAN AND GOD IN THE CITY \$1.25; **LOOK AT THE CITY** \$1.00; Program Guide for THE CITY .50; **Foreign Mission JEEP TRACKS** \$1.00. Please add .10 postage for each book ordered.

—o—

MINISTERS AT DEERING SCHOOL

The Rev. W. C. Carpenter of Douglas, Ga., and the Rev. N. A. Long, of Crestview, Fla., attended the Eastern Summer School for Ministers conducted at the Deering Community Center, Hillsboro, New Hampshire, July 7-28. Fifty ministers were chosen from the conferences east of the Mississippi River, upon recommendation of their superintendents, for scholarships to the school held annually by the Board of Home Missions.

According to reports, our Southeast Convention ministers are receiving much recognition. Mr. Carpenter was elected to be one of a group of six which forms the Council governing the school, and was elected chairman of his group. He was also named as one of the students on a panel of three faculty and three students for a discussion of questions submitted by faculty and students during the sessions.

Mr. Carpenter has also been asked to serve on the Conference Planning Committee for the annual Church and Committee Conference to be held by the University of Georgia March 7-9, 1955. He attended the conference last year and found it most informative and helpful, and urges that his fellow ministers make plans to attend the 1955 sessions.

—o—

Installation of Dr. Carleton

The climatic event of the 145th annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions at New Haven was the installation service of Dr. Alford Carleton as executive vice-president of the board. Delegates to the

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

DAYS OF DECISION

The excellent reports of our representatives to the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches and the National Council of Pilgrim Fellowship clearly indicate that these are days of decision. We are proud to be a part of such a forward looking, purposeful, free, democratic denomination. We thrill to the way it is promoting Kingdom Work throughout our nation and around the world.

However, it is in a very special sense that these are days of decision for us here in the Southeast Convention. In annual session at Lanett we voted to become autonomous and to launch an aggressive financial program which will bring us to full self-support within the next few years. To do this, every individual and every church in the Convention will have to make a substantial increase in giving to Our Christian World Mission. It will also be necessary for each church to form the habit of sending Our Christian World Mission monies to the Convention office every month. Only by so doing can we meet our obligations and begin to realize our high goal.

Elsewhere in this issue is a list of those churches who have already increased their pledges and have started the "check every month" plan. We know that others will be following their lead.

Now all of this is but an introduction to what I want to tell you about the Every Church Canvass scheduled for September 20-24. Those of you who were at Lanett will remember our plan and in a few days every church will receive detailed announcements giving days, hours, and leaders.

By vote of the Convention and in accordance with our constitution, preparations are now well under way for the first Convention-wide Every Church Canvass. Sixty ministers and laymen will be sent "two by two" to every church in the area. In the afternoon of the day designated they will hope to meet with the minister and key officers of the church to talk over techniques and methods which may prove helpful to the local church in developing Christian Stewardship and a consequent increase in dedicated giving to the needs of the local church and to Our Christian World Mission.

In the evening session (perhaps after a fellowship meal) all the members and friends of the church will gather for a duly called congregational meeting. Then will be shown the new Convention color filmstrip entitled "The Day of Decision." It will tell the story of our needs, our

General Council meeting who know him told each other that he is a "missionary statesman" of whom great things are expected in the service of the board.

Dr. Ronald Bridges was re-elected president of the American Board.

responsibilities and our opportunities -- Our Christian World Mission. When it is over, each church will be asked to decide what it must do to help to set its own yearly goal for giving and pledge to send a check each month to carry on the work of the Kingdom, here and in all the world.

Our people are ready and willing. The Day of Decision for you and your church is near. Watch for the letters from the Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education, and follow their suggestions to the letter. When the announcement comes of the day and time of your congregational meeting, tell everybody and have a big crowd on hand. We will be depending on all of you to help make the Day of Decision a glorious and happy occasion and a worthy demonstration of our complete dedication to Christ and His Church.

This will indeed be a rich spiritual experience for us all!

—Erston M. Butterfield

LEADING CHURCHES

(The following churches have sent in pledges for monthly giving to Our Christian World Mission in advance of the Every Church Canvass.)

Alabama-Northwest Florida:

Baker, Pyron's Chapel
Crestview, Dorcas
Garden City
Lineville, New Harmony
Midland City, Christian Hill
Phenix City, United
West Point, Bethel

Georgia-South Carolina:

The Rock, Bethany
Tifton, First
Tifton, Vanceville
Waycross, Williams Chapel

Kentucky-Tennessee

Evarts, First

We hope these churches are setting the pattern that all churches will follow, for the Program of Progress of the Southeast Convention is dependent now on the consistent and increased giving from the churches of the Convention.

Courtesy Pays

"My boy," a father advised his son, "treat everybody with politeness, even those who are rude to you. For remember that you show courtesy to others not because they are gentlemen, but because you are one."

General Council . . .

(From page 3)

"together" the vast majority of the delegates were in their thinking--which allowed the General Council to make far-reaching decisions on these important matters so vital to the denomination. Even after heated discussions of controversial questions, I noted how few in number were those who were determined to stand in the way of progress and enlargement of our fellowship. I was particularly pleased with the determination of the General Council to proceed with the merger with the E. & R. fellowship, and to continue the great work of our Committee on Social Action.

One fact was apparent in the laymen's meetings. Those sections of the country where our fellowship is strongest had strong laymen's groups with definite programs of laymen's work. In other words, these people do not leave everything to the minister, as we in the SE are so prone to do. I talked to one minister of a mid-western church that showed a gain in membership of 60 last year, of which the minister said over 50 were due almost solely to active personal evangelistic work by our laymen, and our laymen need better organization. We are no different from other sections of the country and can accomplish the same results they have if we put the same interest and effort into the work as they do.

It saddened me to learn that there is an acute shortage of ministers in nearly all conferences in our fellowship. Not enough young men are entering the ministry to fill the gaps left by those having to retire. We need to do something about this. We all have young men in our churches who would make excellent ministers if they would dedicate their lives to the fulltime service of God and if they had our help and encouragement.

—Walt Wood

This was my fourth General Council meeting (including the special session at Cleveland in 1949). Each one seems to be better than the last, and a most heartening observation is the steady increase in laymen who attend the Council meetings, many of them going as associate delegates and entirely at their own personal expense.

I come away from each meeting more thoroughly sold on the Congregational Way as being the most nearly democratic Christian way. To be sure, we have our "family squabbles," and some of the time we get a little impatient with those who do not agree with us, but it is a part of the great American system, and so long as we will listen to those who differ from us and try to arrive at a Christian solution to our problems, we need not fear for the future of our denomination or our country.

As a layman, I get a great lift from the nightly "bull sessions" which the laymen have after each evening program. These sessions usually last until midnight, and it is a great inspiration to associate with the lay leaders of our denomination

and to learn that so many men now realize that a great part of the success of any church program depends upon the men of the local church, and that we must not leave all the work for the minister.

I attended the group which studied some of the racial problems facing us as a denomination as well as a nation. It was most heartening to find that those attending the discussions were trying to approach the problem of segregation and other racial problems in a spirit of Christian understanding of each other's problems. I talked with a number of the Negroes who attended the sessions--men like Dr. Julian, the gifted scientist who was born in Montgomery, Ala.--and found them all to be thinking very seriously about the problems facing both races. All were confident that if both races maintain a true Christian spirit no problem or obstacle will be too difficult to solve.

It was a great meeting! I am now looking forward to the National Laymen's meeting in Chicago in February, 1955, and hope that a number of our laymen from the Southeast Convention will be in attendance at that historic gathering, the first for our denomination.

—Pressly Ingram

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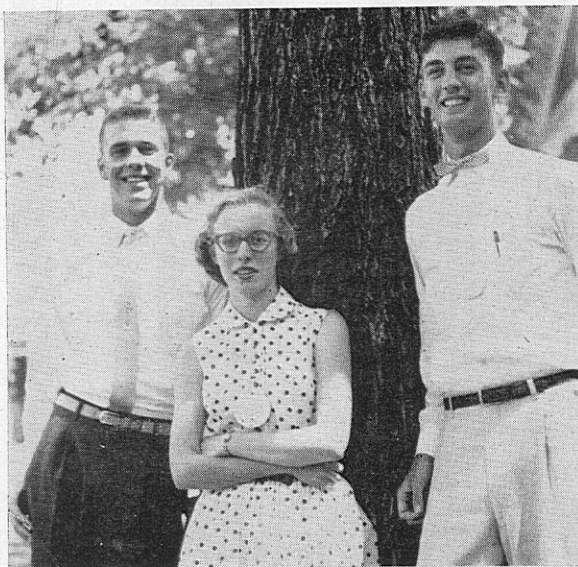
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PF

The Ninth National Council of Pilgrim Fellowship left its mark, and a deep one, on at least one delegate; I am sure it marked the other 300 as well. For one glorious week PFers from all over the United States (and visiting young people from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Japan, and the Philippines) studied, worshipped, played and fellowshiped together at beautiful Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Conn.

National Council is the final organization in Pilgrim Fellowship--the organization which ties each and every local fellowship and all the state conferences and conventions together. It is the official policy maker, the official suggestive body of Pilgrim Fellowship. National Council is the place where problems are presented, discussed, and solutions are found.

We delegates met to do a job--a tremendously important one. We were aware of its seriousness and knew that many problems were present. Prejudices presented a tremendous problem. Work on the mission field had to be discussed. Appropriations of money had to be voted. A few of the things which we voted to do are: Support the work of Mr. Galen Weaver, the Secretary of Racial and Cultural Relations of the Council for Social Action; support Indian work in South Dakota; support the work of Truk in Micronesia; support rural evangelism in Japan. Money for these projects, and others, is raised through activities like Work Day for Christ.

All of us at National Council were deeply inspired. We saw the many pressing problems of this day and age. We saw the need of Christian young people dedicating themselves to a very, very difficult task, but a very rewarding one. We saw what a really great purpose our PF purpose



PF delegates at New Haven: Albert Van Cleave, Betty Slater and Millard Fuller.

is: "To know God in our lives as revealed by Jesus Christ, to worship Him only, to study His Truth, and to dedicate ourselves to do His Will--to witness to the message and mission of the church among all people, serving the world in the name of Christ, and striving toward the establishment of brotherhood, justice, and peace--to cooperate with all who seek to extend the Christian fellowship."

Although we spent long hours in committee meetings, discussion groups, and business sessions, we had some recreation and fellowship together. When the week was over and sad good-byes were still ringing in our ears, we realized what a truly wonderful week we had had. Each of us, I know, went home a better person, a better PFER, a stronger Christian--because of our experiences at National Council.

—Millard Fuller

The Council is divided into three Commissions--**Faith, Fellowship and Action**. I chose the **Fellowship** Commission and experienced the joy of hearing a grand youth worker, George Jenkins, Director of Christian Education from California.

The Fellowship Commission divided into workshop groups during the meeting. They studied the area of interdenominational relationships, inter-faith and inter-racial relationships, inter-group relationships and intra-group relationships. We also did a great deal of study in the field of recreation, as it is felt that this field has been greatly neglected by many groups. The workshops were used to train the leaders in these fields, and to plan the program emphasis for the next biennium. The group considers the workshop plan a success and feels that it should be continued in the years to come.

The program emphasis for the Fellowship Commission for 1955-57 consists of five points: 1) Recreation, 2) Understanding and working with U.C.Y.M. and U.F.P., 3) Planning better rallies, 4) Study of the World Council of Churches and the

things that happened at the Evanston meeting in 1954, 5) Leadership training conferences.

Some of the high points of the Council were: 1) Town meeting of the World, 2) New England Night, 3) Beach Party, 4) a visit to and fellowship with the General Council, and 5) Communion and closing service of the Council.

This was truly a week of inspiration, fellowship and worship. I am hoping to attend again sometime in the future. I hope you may do so too.

—Albert Van Cleave

All you Southern PFers--did you realize that we are a great big church and one of "the" denominations? It's really great getting to know your PF members and find out the situations in all states.

Before we went to the Council we were asked to sign up for one of the three Commissions. I chose **Christian Faith**. Each group had a workshop, and the workshop divided into buzz groups. Since there were 100 in our workshop, it was decided to divide into groups of 25. The Reverends Robert Rasche and Oliver Powell were resource leaders, and they were really good. Matt Goslin, delegate from Washington State, was buzz group leader. We studied and discussed 1) Personal Christian Living, 2) Christian Vocation, 3) Leadership Training for Young People and their Advisors, and 4) Study Committee.

There's so much more I could tell, but it would take a whole book or magazine. I'll never finish talking about all the wonderful experiences, never forget the new friends I made and everything I learned. I am very appreciative of the chance given me by the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship for electing me a delegate. If anyone wants to know more, I'll be glad to write you personally.

—Betty Slater

A Father's Prayer

Last night my little boy confessed to me
Some childish wrong; and, kneeling at
my knee,

He prayed with tears: "Dear God, make
me a man

Like Daddy, wise and strong—I know
You can!"

Then, while he slept, I knelt beside his
bed,

Confessed my sins, and prayed with
low-bowed head:

"O God, make me a child, like my
child here—

Pure, guileless, trusting Thee with faith
sincere."

Church News



The Children's Choir is the latest addition to the EAST TALLASSEE CHURCH program. It is composed of 25 children from age six to twelve. The choir sings at every Sunday night service, leads the Call to Worship, and sings special numbers. They also sing at special services, and in their white robes with black ties they are a beautiful sight to see and hear as they sing their praises to God. Mrs. Lorilie Ballard is the director, and Mrs. Jettie Logan is the pianist. This feature has added greatly to the evening services, and the congregation is very proud of their Children's Choir.

The Highway Church near Lanett has just recently sponsored a Vacation Bible School under the leadership of Mrs. Ethel Raye and Mrs. Noel Allen. Splendid cooperation was shown throughout the week by the pastor, the faculty and church members. We enrolled 58 pupils. Those who served on the faculty were Mrs. Raye and Miss Gladys Brand with the Juniors; Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Homer Gray with the Intermediates; Miss Nonnie Looser and Mrs. E. B. Doolittle, Primary Department; and Mrs. Boyce Fant with the Beginners. Mr. Boyce Fant worked with the boys in handicrafts and was assisted by Noel Allen, Manley Ward and Homer Gray.

Delicious refreshments were served daily by different members of the church. On Sunday night we had our graduation exercises. A large crowd enjoyed this program and felt that much good had been accomplished through the school.

The Laymen's Fellowship recently elected officers for this year: President, Charles McClure; Vice President, Newman Carpenter; Secretary & Treasurer, Manley Ward; and Asst. Secretary-Treasurer, H. D. Stephens.

The Friendly Service Circle met on the evening of June 21 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Noel Allen for a business meeting and social. Families were invited. While the members attended to the business and elected officers for the year, the men made ice cream. Officers for 1954-55 are:



The dedication of the Mount Olive Church parsonage was held on June 13 with the Rev. C. Carl Dollar officiating.

Open house was held in the afternoon from two until five for members and friends of Mount Olive Church. Pictured are the Reverend and Mrs. Howard Morris. Mr. Morris is pastor of the church.

President, Mrs. Charles McClure; First Vice President, Mrs. Noel Allen; Second Vice president, Mrs. James Weldon; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Nonnie Looser; Key Woman, Mrs. A. C. Nelson; Friendly Service Chairman, Mrs. Homer Gray; Flower Chairman, Mrs. Lester Weldon; Benevolence Chairman, Mrs. E. B. Doolittle.

After the benediction we gathered on the back lawn and enjoyed the delicious ice cream, cocoanut cake and lemonade. Those enjoying the fellowship were: Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Nelson, and Rev. Nelson's sister, Mrs. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Chas McClure and Frankie, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Gray and Nancy, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Doolittle, Miss Nonnie Looser, Mr. and Mrs. James Weldon and Sara Ellen, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Weldon, and the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Allen and Wray.

—Noel Allen, Reporter

The Lanett Church was represented at the Jr. Hi Conference at S.U.C. July 4-10 by Buddy Collier, Carolyn French and Ann Knight. Linda Looser, Millard Fuller and June Collier attended the Sr. Hi Conference July 18-24.

We were most fortunate to have Miss Agnes Wood, on furlough from Africa, to speak to us on July 12. Before her interesting and informative talk a covered dish supper was enjoyed, and



INTERIOR OF TODD CHURCH

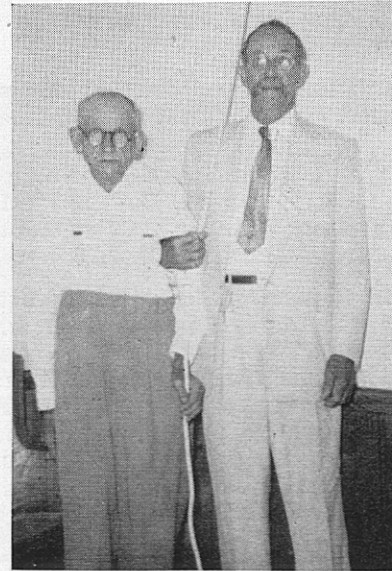
then Miss Wood showed pictures illustrating her work.

Mrs. W. O. McGill, Mrs. Tom Crenshaw, Mrs. Leonard Collier, Mrs. Joe French, Mrs. Lena Stephens, Mrs. Render Fuller, Mrs. Charlie Miller and Mrs. A. D. Harry attended the Missionary Retreat at S.U.C. July 13-14. Never have we attended a single retreat that we had such a wealth of first-hand information. Miss Agnes Wood, Mrs. Edward C. Riggs and "Joe", the Japanese student at S.U.C., gave most interesting and informative talks, with question and answer periods and the showing of slides of scenes and work in Africa, India and Japan, respectively.

Dr. and Mrs. Edward C. Riggs and their three children were guests of our congregation at both Sunday morning and evening services on July 18. Dr. Riggs delivered the morning address and both Dr. and Mrs. Riggs spoke at the evening service and showed colored slides of their work in India. We feel that we have a sharpened sense of obligation to our missionaries as a result of their visit with us. It was especially good for us to realize that there are young people who can be missionaries and with their families too, and we thoroughly enjoyed meeting and knowing this young couple and their children.

During our recent Vacation Bible School an offering was taken each day. At the Sunday morning service Agnes French presented Dr. Riggs with a check for \$35 from our boys and girls to be used for the children of India in his work. Personal gifts were also given the Riggs from other departments of the church. On July 25 an offering was taken for the Indian Missions.

Something new has been added for the youth of our church. Each Thursday evening a recreational program has begun with shuffleboard, badminton, table tennis, volley ball--supervised games, refreshments and closing devotions being the aim. Charles Fetner, who is with the Dept. of Community Recreation, is our able director. E.



Oldest members: Johnny Breedlove and C. W. Burson.

G. Shaddix is his co-director. Others assisting are Frank Moon, Herbert Alexander, John Dollar, Jr., and Fred Lashley. Volunteer women will be used as chaperones and hostesses.

—Lois Harry, Reporter

The **Dorcas Church**, near Crestview, Fla., reports a very good Sunday School with increasingly good attendance. The church is happy to have boys of the church and community who have been away for various reasons back in Sunday School and church this summer. Harold McCallum, Johnny Smart and Laurez Ward are home from the Army; Jack Powell and Tommy Ward are home from Southern Union College. Their presence and participation adds to the community and church.

We have had a very successful Vacation Bible School, conducted by Miss Marilee Jones and Miss Mary Stewart.

Our pastor, the Rev. N. A. Long, attended the Deering Pastors' School in July, and Mrs. Long was away visiting her boys and their families. We missed them both very much, and are happy to have them back with us again.

Your reporter enjoyed a visit with her daughter (the former Dorothy Powell) and her family in Topeka, Kansas.

—Mrs. John W. Powell, Reporter

The four Churches of the **North Georgia Parish** met together on Sunday, July 11, at Macedonia Church, Braselton. The theme of the sermon for the morning service, delivered by the pastor Scott Morris, Jr., was "What think ye of Christ?" The Holy Communion was celebrated for the entire Parish with the Deacons of the four Churches assisting the Pastor at the altar.

Following the morning service the Reverend Mr. and Mrs. Scott Morris, Jr., held "Open House" at the parsonage. A delicious dinner prepared by

the ladies of the Parish was served on the parsonage lawn.

The four Churches of the Parish gave their pastor a grocery shower at the "Parsonage Open House."

The Churches comprising the North Georgia Parish are Liberty Church, Bowman; Macedonia Church, Braselton; Duncan's Creek Church, Buford; and Sardis Church, Oxford.

The **Todd Church** of Shawmut held its Homecoming Day and the Dedication of the church on Sunday, June 13th. We had 87 for Sunday School and around 200 for Services and dinner. During the afternoon session of the program, Rev. Fetter gave the people an opportunity to speak from their hearts--what they felt about the church. It was most inspiring and certainly the spirit was felt by all. Rev. Goff Bedford made a brief but inspiring talk just before adjournment.

The Rev. Goff Bedford joined in Holy Wedlock Mrs. Margarie Moncus and Elliott Williams on Saturday afternoon, June 19, at Todd Church.

The Pilgrim Fellowship has purchased a new piano for the new auditorium, and they are doing wonderful work.

A choir has been organized in the church and meets after prayer meeting on Wednesday night for practice. They have white robes and add greatly to the Sunday Services.

The laymen of the church held a fish supper for the wives and children at the church on July 10th with around 35 present.

Miss Peggy Hammock and Miss Sherrill Fordham attended the Junior High Camp at Southern Union College the week of July 4-11.

—Mrs. Howard Strength, Reporter

Steady progress is being made in the three churches comprising the **Robbins Parish** in Tennessee. There have been additions to the churches each month and the prospect list continues to grow.

Barton Chapel voted to redecorate and buy new furniture for the parsonage in order that it may eventually be completely furnished. The painting of the three rooms downstairs is completed as well as refinished of the floors. A new living-room and dinette suites have been ordered.

Deer Lodge completed a very successful Bible School, uniting with other church groups in the community for a union school with 105 enrolled. Also a new sign has been painted and placed in front of the church.

Glenmary has painted the inside of the church and the pews as well as making some needed repairs on the building. It is expected that if our present plans are continued the church property of all three churches will be in excellent condition within two or three months. This work is being paid for out of the offerings, since the Oak Park Church is paying the pastor's salary at present.

Each church has voted to contribute 10% of its offering to Our Christian World Mission.

—Hugh Lasseter, Pastor

POMONA CONFERENCE

The annual summer conference of the Kentucky-Tennessee churches was held at Camp Pomona June 6-12. It is called a "family conference." The emphasis this year was threefold: Leadership Training classes, Women's Fellowship and Pilgrim Fellowship sessions.

Guest leaders for the Leadership Training were: Rev. Harold W. Freer, Cleveland, Ohio (who brought a car-load of his young people with him); Rabbi Feinstein of Chattanooga, who spoke daily to the group on the "Prophets of the Old Testament"; Dr. Terry J. Burley of Chattanooga, minister of First Church (Negro); and Rev. Harley Patterson, minister of the United Church of Oak Ridge, Tenn., who brought about two dozen of his young people. Mr. and Mrs. John Detwyler of Oak Ridge also came as directors of recreation.

From our own fellowship we had as leaders the Reverends Staley Hunt, Collie Seymour, Hugh Lasseter, J. W. Davenport, A. L. DeJarnette and Paul R. Reynolds. Mrs. Seaton, Mrs. DeJarnette, Miss Miriam Heermans and Mrs. Paul Reynolds also were members of the faculty. Subjects covered were varied--Personal Religious Living, Understanding Ourselves; Worship, Music, Pilgrim Fellowship and Our Christian World Mission. Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds, former missionaries to China, led in the latter study.

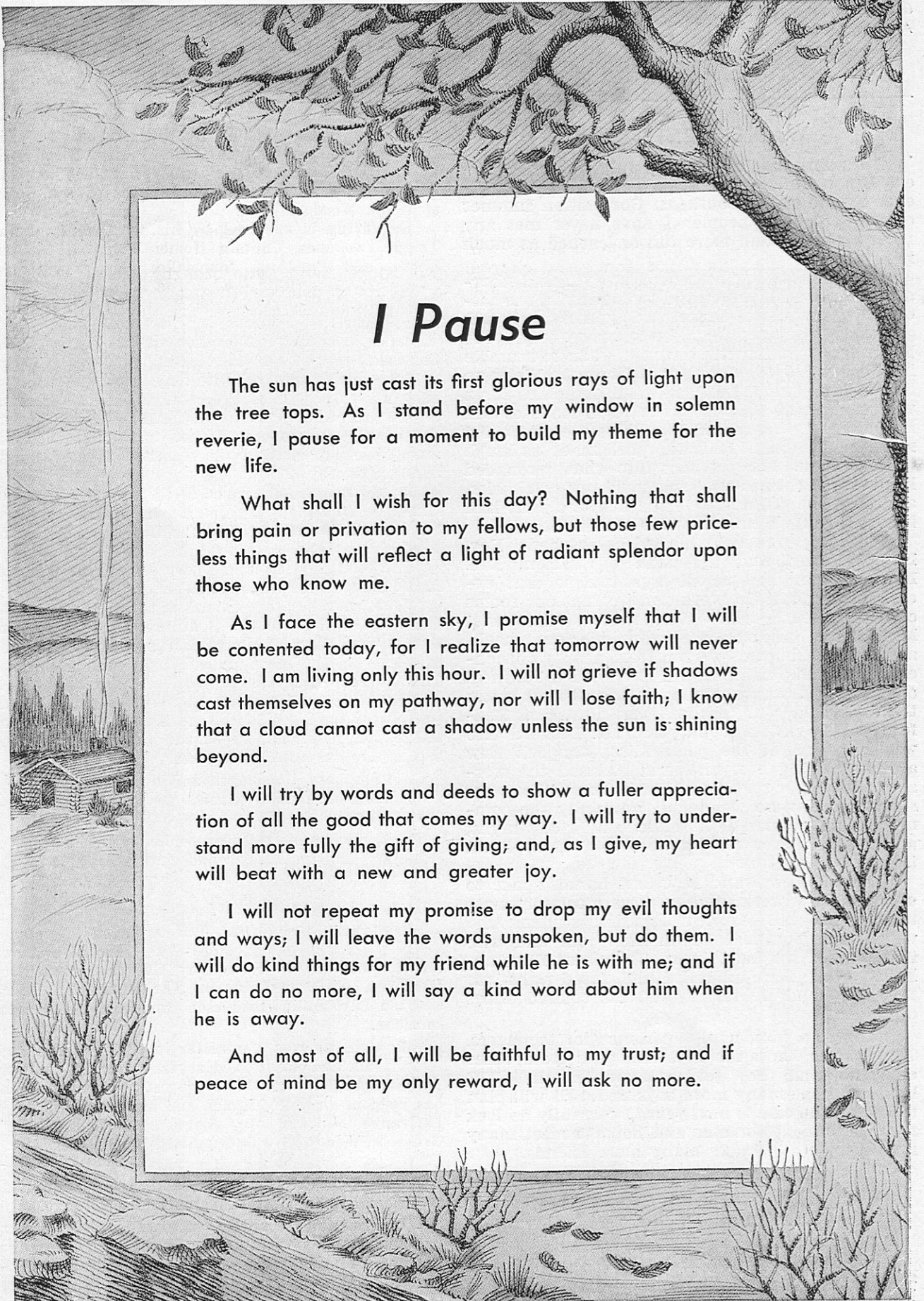
Mrs. Arnold Slater, President of Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Fellowship, arranged to have Miss Marjory Martin, Friendly Service Chairman, lead the Women's Fellowship in the program, projects and interests of the coming year.

The Pilgrim Fellowship planned two business sessions and elected officers. Miss Sandra Mason of Stearns, Ky., was elected the new president. Millard Fuller, Convention President of PF, was guest during the week.

Actually, a fourth emphasis should be mentioned. Rev. Annie Campbell, Convention Chairman of the Christian Education and Youth Work Committee, and who is handling the Student Summer Service program for the Convention this summer, met daily with the SSS workers. Along with Mrs. Young of Crossville, they held a Daily Vacation Bible School each morning with other leaders from Crossville participating.

From every angle it could be considered a successful conference. We had 131 registered, and of these 100 were young people. The food, prepared under the direction of Rev. Abram Nightingale, was plentiful and delicious. While fun and fellowship prevailed, study and devotion were also much in evidence. The closing Communion Service with Dr. Paul Reynolds and Rev. Arnold Slater leading was effective and the Candelight Service was a significant climax, as all present walked to their rooms in silence.

Rev. Arnold Slater served as Dean, and Dr. Paul Reynolds, who served as Registrar after Mrs. T. L. Cunningham was called to Virginia because of her father's illness, was ably assisted by Mrs. Reynolds.



I Pause

The sun has just cast its first glorious rays of light upon the tree tops. As I stand before my window in solemn reverie, I pause for a moment to build my theme for the new life.

What shall I wish for this day? Nothing that shall bring pain or privation to my fellows, but those few priceless things that will reflect a light of radiant splendor upon those who know me.

As I face the eastern sky, I promise myself that I will be contented today, for I realize that tomorrow will never come. I am living only this hour. I will not grieve if shadows cast themselves on my pathway, nor will I lose faith; I know that a cloud cannot cast a shadow unless the sun is shining beyond.

I will try by words and deeds to show a fuller appreciation of all the good that comes my way. I will try to understand more fully the gift of giving; and, as I give, my heart will beat with a new and greater joy.

I will not repeat my promise to drop my evil thoughts and ways; I will leave the words unspoken, but do them. I will do kind things for my friend while he is with me; and if I can do no more, I will say a kind word about him when he is away.

And most of all, I will be faithful to my trust; and if peace of mind be my only reward, I will ask no more.

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WADLEY JR. HI CAMP

Attending the Jr. Hi Camp July 4-10 at Southern Union College this year was my first experience at one of the Southeast Convention summer camps for young people. I have never met any nicer people or had more fun or learned as much in one week!

With classes in the mornings (which I thoroughly enjoyed), games and swimming in the afternoons, films, get-acquainted games and folk games in the evenings, you exercise both your brain and your muscles and are ready to stumble into bed when it's time for lights out. We were disappointed when rain cancelled our plans for a weiner roast at Bald Rock, but had loads of fun in the dining room and Mr. Long even provided make-believe ants. Miss Campbell made us laugh talking about her pet mosquito that serenaded her every night. At first she could not catch him, and then she did not have the heart to swat him because by then he was a blood relation!

The camp was well planned by the dean, Rev. Herbert Long, and the dean of women, Mrs. Lowell Smoot, had us all organized so that everyone shared in the work and we kept our rooms clean and neat--neat? Well, most of the time! Mrs. Fralic prepared the most delicious meals, assisted by groups of women from nearby churches. Each group came in and prepared a big meal on one day of camp, and each one seemed better than the last. Our teachers were Rev. Goff Bedford and Rev. Carl Dollar, and Mr. Bedford also was lifeguard at the pool. Miss Campbell flew around helping everyone, and planned the worship and vesper services with Mr. Long. The worship services were wonderful, especially the communion and candlelight service on Friday night, and I have never felt so close to God as I did there.

Dr. Van Cleave and Rev. Carl Landis spoke to us during the week, and we were most fortunate to have Shigemi Morta, a Japanese student who will attend Southern Union next year and who is sponsored by the Pilgrim Church of Birmingham. "Joe," as we all called him, fitted right into the camp and we all enjoyed his colored slides on Japan.

Camp is a wonderful experience for teenagers. They get to know the boys and girls from other churches, and they get to know THEMSELVES better. I hope many more boys and girls will plan to attend the camps next year. I certainly do look forward to next summer and hope to meet many more people and make many more friends.

—Lola Albright

OBITUARY

Dr. Thomas Alfred Tripp was stricken with a heart attack while attending the General Council at New Haven on June 29th. He was rushed to the New Haven Hospital where he died on July 2nd. Private

funeral services were held at New Haven. A Memorial Service was held at White Plains, New York, on July 6th, conducted by Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, Director of the Research Department of the Board of Home Missions.

Dr. Tripp is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mirian Tripp; two sons, Captain Homer Tripp of the Air Force, and Paul, of Johnsville, New York; two daughters, Mrs. Joseph K. Kornacki, and Mrs. Richard Maine, both of Westerly, R. I.; two sisters, Mrs. Ivan Orcutt of Colorado Springs and Mrs. Floyd Taylor of Denver; and a brother, Harvey, of Rifle, Colorado.

Tom, as he was affectionately known throughout the fellowship, will be greatly missed. He did much to call attention to the plight of rural areas and to rally both the denominational and interdenominational forces to discover the reasons therefore and to apply a remedy.

A Memorial Service will be held by the Board of Home Missions in September, in connection with the Executive Committee of the Boards of Directors' Meeting, to be held in New York.

The following letter has been sent to Dr. Truman B. Douglass from Superintendent Butterfield:

"The churches, the Board of Directors, and the Officers and Staff of the Southeast Convention wish to join the Board of Home Missions in honoring the memory of our good friend and wise counselor, Thomas Alfred Tripp.

"His keen insight into the problems and opportunities of the New South, and his constant devotion to the Congregational way, made him a valued leader and highly respected co-worker.

"Throughout the length and breadth of the land he made his effective witness as a true servant of Jesus Christ.

"We mourn his passing while giving thanks to Almighty God for his life and work among us."

* * *

The Rev. John Edgar Amason, aged 75, passed away in LaGrange, Ga., hospital on June 28 and was laid to rest in the Noon Day Church cemetery at Wedowee, Ala., on June 30. The Rev. John Dollar and the Rev. Jodie Henderson conducted the funeral services.

Mr. Amason was a minister in the East Alabama Association and has served several churches in East Alabama and Georgia. For the past several years he has been in declining health and has lived quietly in LaGrange. One of our Alabama churches--Caver's Grove of Wedowee--was organized by Mr. Amason.

He is survived by Mrs. Amason, the former Della Hunt of Cragford, Ala., and eight children, all of whom live in East Alabama and LaGrange.

Mr. Amason entered the ministry about 36 years ago and was always faithful to his calling, preaching the truth fearlessly as he saw it. The large attendance at his funeral and the beautiful floral offerings were evidence of the love and respect which his acquaintances had for him.